

solely to defray the costs of room and board for participants. In addition, the program agency shall establish the amount of the deductions and rates for any room and board after evaluating the costs of providing these services to the participant.

(c) Allowance for quarters. For purposes of section 5911 of title 5, United States Code, relating to allowances for quarters, a participant or crew leader shall be considered an employee of the United States within the meaning of the term "employee" as defined in paragraph (a)(3) of that section.

(d) No requirement for a reduction in existing benefits. A program in existence as of November 16, 1990, is not required to decrease any stipends, salaries, or living allowances provided to participants in such program as a result of any of the above requirements, so long as the amount of any such stipends, salaries, or living allowances that is in excess of the levels specified above are paid from non-Federal sources.

(e) Health insurance. In addition to a living allowance, program agencies are encouraged to provide health insurance to each participant in a full-time youth corps program who does not otherwise have access to health insurance.

§2503.26 Miscellaneous duties and authorities of program agencies.

(a) *Responsibilities to participant.* A program agency may provide facilities, quarters, and board and shall provide limited and emergency medical care, transportation from administrative facilities to work sites, accommodations for individuals with disabilities, child care and other supportive services, and other appropriate services, supplies, and equipment to each participant.

(b) *Operation of maintenance agreements.* Program agencies may enter into contracts and other appropriate arrangements with local government agencies and nonprofit organizations for the operation or management of any projects or facilities under the program.

(c) *Coordination.* Program agencies shall coordinate their projects with related Federal, State, local, and private activities.

(d) *Limitation on placement.* No participant shall perform any specific activity for more than a six-month period. No participant shall remain enrolled in programs assisted under this part for more than 24 months.

§2503.27 Health and safety standards.

(a) Program agencies shall establish and meet standards and enforcement procedures concerning the health and safety of participants for all projects, consistent with Federal, State, and local health and safety standards.

(b) Due to the wide variety of eligible activities and locations in which these activities may be performed, the Commission will not set separate standards for these programs. The Commission requires that program agencies meet the existing Federal, State, and local health and safety standards that would otherwise be applicable to the particular location of the project and the activity being performed if the activity were performed by regular employees of the program.

§2503.28 Federal and State employee status.

(a) *General Responsibility.* Participants and crew leaders shall be responsible to, or be a responsibility of, the program agency administering the program on which such participants, crew leaders, and volunteers work.

(b) *General Treatment as a Non-Federal Employee.* Except as otherwise provided under paragraphs (c) and (d) of this Section, a participant or crew leader in a program that receives assistance shall not be considered a Federal employee and shall not be subject to the provisions of law relating to Federal employment.

(c) *Work-Related Injury.* A participant or crew leader serving in a program that receives assistance shall be considered an employee of the United States, within the meaning of the term *employee* as defined in section 8101 of title 5, United States Code, for the purposes of subchapter I of chapter 81 of title 5, United States Code, relating to the compensation of Federal employees for work injuries. The provision of that subchapter shall apply, except: